

14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

## REPORT OF WASHINGTON AREA COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR NETWORK

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report provides an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network

### 2. Background

- 2.1 To develop the capacity and influence of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) across the City, Area Networks have been established and delegates represent each Area Network at Area Committee taking forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area and reporting back, providing a two-way flow of communication.
- 2.2 Washington Area Network delegates will present a report to each Area Committee meeting informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

### 3. Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network (ACVSN) Progress Report

The Washington ACVSN has met twice since the last Area Committee in September.

- VCS Network will continue to work on developing and supporting the VCS re collaboration, communications, intelligence and mapping.
- VCS Reps are to give both oral and written updates to the Area Committee and the Boards of Network developments, as requested.
- The Network has been invited to contribute to discussions with regards to the City Council's VCS Relationship Transition Project. The project will consider how best the council can work with the sector to achieve joint objectives and priorities going forward. Network representatives are now to be invited to attend the VCS Relationship Transition Project Board. Further updates will be presented as appropriate.
- The Network received a presentation for the City Council's Sport and Leisure Service identifying how they can support and help local clubs and the community
- The City Council's Procurement Team attended the last Network meeting to identify to the Network how the VCS can access opportunities to deliver SCC contracts. The team also promoted training session to encourage the sector to register on Buy Sunderland First and NEPO
- The Network is keen to find a way to ensure the right support is in place for grass roots organisations to take advantage of opportunities coming forward. This includes the Community Programme for Washington 50 and other local events during 2014, any Call for Projects which the Committee might offer and other small grants opportunities.
- The Network is also keen to discuss how to ensure adequate community development is available to those organisations that need support and to ensure a thriving VCS in Washington.
- The Washington Trust has been invited to submit an application for SIB for a Volunteer Co-ordinator which will have two main strands, one to support current organisations operating in Washington and help them with succession planning which in the medium term should make the organisations more viable and self-sustaining and develop a thriving VCS in Washington and secondly, to develop a cohort of volunteers - this work will be split into two elements supporting the succession planning by supporting and developing volunteers to help run activities and organisations and recruiting volunteers who are able to give time on

an adhoc basis, to support community and locality projects, without having to make an ongoing commitment.

- The Network reps are also keen to discuss how to broaden the reach of the Network and ensure the roles of the reps are developed and promoted. As part of the VCS Relationship Transition Project, the terms of reference for the Networks is likely to be reviewed which will address this issue.

#### **4. Recommendations**

##### 4.1 Members are requested

- To note the contents of the report and consider the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN

Contact: John Rostron, Area Network Representative.  
Tel.no. 0191 2193884

Jacqui Reeves, Area Network Representative.  
Email [Jacqui@washingtonmind.org.uk](mailto:Jacqui@washingtonmind.org.uk)

Kasia Kurowska, Area Network Representative  
Email: [partnershipmanager@ageuksunderland.org.uk](mailto:partnershipmanager@ageuksunderland.org.uk)